DATELINE NO. 73 WASHINGTON APRIL 21, 1976
ALINA ZERANSKI

"SHARING THE RICHES OF THE LAND"
(TAPE INSERTS AVAILABLE IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: AND NOW THE VOICE OF AMERICA PRESENTS DATELINE ... ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF PROGRAMS ABOUT PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS HERE IN THE UNITED STATES -- BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA EACH WEEK AT THIS TIME. TODAY, A VISIT TO A SMALL RURAL CORNER WITH TWO OF THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE ON EARTH.

NARR: WHO SAID THAT OLD AGE HAS TO BE LONELY? IT CERTAINLY IS NOT FOR GRANNY AND GRANDPA HERSCH ON THEIR FARM IN MANASSAS, EVEN THOUGH THEIR FIVE CHILDREN HAVE MOVED AWAY LONG AGO. THE HERSHES ADOPTED ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD FOR THEIR OWN, AND THEY DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR VISITS. LAST YEAR, OVER 25,000 CITY CHILDREN FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, DAY-CARE CENTERS, SCOUT TROOPS, AND BOYS CLUBS, CAME TO THIS RURAL VIRGINIA COMMUNITY, LOCATED ABOUT 40 KILOMETERS FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. TO VISIT THE HERSCH FARM. AND FOR MOST OF THEM IT WAS THEIR FIRST GLIMPSE OF A GENUINE FARM. THE HERSCHES SHARE WITH THEM THE JOYS OF COUNTRY LIVING, AT THE SAME TIME RAISING MONEY TO FEED HUNGRY CHILDREN OF THE WORLD.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- HERSCH

"WE HAVE MANY ANIMALS HERE: KITTENS, CHICKENS, DUCKS, A GOOSE, GUINEAS, HORSES AND PONIES FOR THE CHILDREN TO RIDE. HORSES FOR THEM TO LOOK AT. AND WE HAVE TINKLE BELL, THE ONE COW SAVED FROM OUR DAIRY HERD IN 1966. AND WE LET ALL THE CHILDREN MILK HER, TASTE HER FRESH MILK. AND WE OFTEN HAVE LITTLE PET LAMBS. THEY ARE BOTTLE FED, SO WHEN THEY MILK THE COW, THEY CAN FEED THE LAMBS."

NARR: MABEL HERSCH IS A TINY 76-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WITH GREY HAIR WHICH SHE USUALLY COVERS WITH AN OLD-FASHIONED BONNET. BOTH SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAVE COLLEGE DEGREES. IN THEIR YOUTH, THEY WERE TEACHERS, THEN THEY SETTLED ON HER FATHER'S 40-HECTARE FARM TO TAKE CARE OF A DAIRY HERD UNTIL RETIREMENT TEN YEARS AGO. THEIRS IS AN AMERICAN PICTURE POSTCARD FARM. THE WHITE CLAPBOARD HOUSE WAS BUILT EIGHTY YEARS AGO BY MRS. HERSCH'S FATHER WHO CUT PINE TREES FOR IT WITH HIS OWN HANDS. THE OLD WELL AND THE DEEP COLD CELLAR ARE STILL THERE. THE LARGE RED BARN, CHICKEN HOUSE AND THE TALL SILO ARE FRESHLY PAINTED. PONIES GRAZE BEHIND A WHITE FRENCE. DOZENS OF RABBITS WAIT FOR CHILDREN TO HOLD AND CUDDLE THEM. THE FRIENDLY PET GOOSE EATS CORN FROM THEIR LITTLE HANDS; TINKLE BELL, THE 17-YEAR-OLD COW, DOESN'T OBJECT WHEN YOUNGSTERS TRY TO MILK HER, AND SHE SEEMS TO SHARE THEIR DELIGHT WHEN THE MILK COMES.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- HERSCH

"WE TAKE THEM TO THE CHICKEN HOUSE, AND OUR CHICKENS ARE ALL HENS, VERY FRIENDLY, NO BIG ROOSTER TO JUMP ON THEM. AND THE CHICKENS SAY -- CLUCK, CLUCK, CLUCK -- WHICH MEANS, 'GOOD MORNING' -- THEN WE TAKE THEM AND LET EACH GATHER AN EGG. AND ONE LITTLE BOY SAID: 'BUT TELL ME GRANNY HERSCH, JUST EXACTLY HOW DO THEY PLANT THEM?' AND OCCASIONALLY WHEN WE OPEN THE NEST WHERE THE CHICKENS LAY THEIR EGGS, THEY ARE JUST IN THE PROCESS OF LAYING AN EGG, AND THAT'S VERY INTERESTING FOR US ALL. WE HAVE DUCKS ON THE POND, WE HAVE A BIG FARM POND."

NARR: ORVILLE AND MABEL HERSCH HAVE BEEN LOVING AND HELPING CHILDREN FOR HALF A CENTURY, LONG BEFORE THE FIRST TEACHER BROUGHT HER CLASS TO THE FARM. THEY INVITE

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(CONT'D) BUSLOADS OF SMALL FRY FOR THE PERSONAL PLEASURE OF HAVING THEM AROUND, TO SHOW THEM THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHICKEN AND GOOSE EGGS. BUT ALSO THEY SAW IN THEIR ENDEAVOR A CHANCE TO FEED HUNGRY YOUNGSTERS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY AS WELL AS IN THE DISTANT LANDS.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- HERSCH

"WE ARE NOT A COMMERCIAL PLACE. WE DON'T MAKE ANY CHARGE FOR PEOPLE TO COME, BUT WE INVITE DONATIONS TO HELP FEED THE HUNGRY OF THE WORLD, EITHER TO HEIFER PROJECT OR CHURCH WORLD SERVICE. HEIFER PROJECT GIVES LIVING GIFTS TO NINETY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE RURAL UNITED STATES. IN THE LAST TWO YEARS THEY HAVE GIVEN TO AMERICAN INDIANS 2,000 HEIFERS. THE IDEA IS FOR THE FIRST HEIFER CALF TO BE GIVEN TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT DOES NOT HAVE A COW ... ALL OF THE GIFTS THAT ARE GIVEN ARE ANYTHING FROM A SIZE OF A BABY CHICK, OR HIVES OF BEES, LAMBS, PIGS, PAIRS OF RABBITS ... GOATS ARE GIVEN OFTEN TO MANY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE ROOM ENOUGH OR PASTURE ENOUGH FOR COW."

NARR: DURING THE LAST THREE DECADES, HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL HAS PROVIDED MORE THAN 45,000 FARM ANIMALS, MOSTLY HEIFERS, AND ONE AND ONE HALF MILLION CHICKENS TO NEEDY FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- HERSCH

OPT

"HEIFER PROJECT IS AN ORGANIZATION BY ORDINARY PEOPLE, CARRIED ON BY ORDINARY PEOPLE. IT ISN'T A GOVERNMENT FUNDED THING ... FIRST IT WAS STARTED BY DANE WEST WHO WAS DOING RELIEF WORK IN SPAIN, RIGHT AFTER THEIR CIVIL WAR ... HE GAVE UP DRIED MILK TO THE REFUGEE CHILDREN IN SPAIN, AND HE RAN OUT OF THE DRIED MILK SOMETIMES, AND STILL THERE'D BE A LOT OF HUNGRY CHILDREN. SO HE THOUGHT, "IF MY FATHER IN GOSHEN, INDIANA, ON A FARM, COULD GIVE ONE OF HIS HEIFERS" ... SOON IT GOT STARTED. FIRST IT WAS ONLY HEIFERS, THAT'S THE REASON IT IS CALLED HEIFER PROJECT. AND IT WAS SENT OVERSEAS TO COUNTRIES AND WAR TORN PLACES." (END OPT)

NARR: CLOVERDALE FUN FARM HAS BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THIS CAUSE. IN THE BARN, NEXT TO THE BOARDS WITH LETTERS FROM LITTLE VISITORS, STANDS A DONATION BOX. NICKELS, DIMES AND PENNIES HELP TO SEND ABROAD ONE CALF AFTER ANOTHER. FROM THE GIFTS THE HERSCHES RECEIVED FOR THEIR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY, 1,000 DOLLARS WENT TO BUY TWO ACRES OF GRAZING LAND FOR A HEIFER PROJECT FARM IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

BECAUSE OF THEIR WIDE INTERESTS AND THE PROXIMITY TO THE CAPITAL, FOREIGN GUESTS SOMETIMES VISIT THE CLOVERDALE FARM. THEY LIKE IT BECAUSE IT IS NOT A SHOW PLACE, BUT AN AUTHENTIC AMERICAN FARM, MODEST, SOMEHOW OLD-FASHIONED. AND THIS COUPLE OF OLD FARMERS, ALTHOUGH NOT VERY CONVENTIONAL, ARE GENUINE AMERICANS. NOTHING WAS CHANGED TO ACCOMMODATE THE FINICKY. YOU TRAMP THROUGH MUD, YOU MAY GET MANURE ON YOUR SHOES. ALL THE FARM SMELLS ARE HERE. YOU CAN WASH YOUR HANDS AT AN OUTDOOR FAUCET. YOU ARE OFFERED HOMEMADE GRAPE JUICE AND COOKIES. YOU WATCH YOUR HOSTS GOING ABOUT THEIR CHORES. YOU READ THE INSCRIPTION: "LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR TO SUCH BELONGS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVENS."

ANNCR: THIS HAS BEEN DATELINE -- ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF PROGRAMS ABOUT PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA EACH WEEK AT THIS TIME. TODAY, YOU VISITED A FARM IN MANASSAS. NEXT _____(AT THIS TIME) ANOTHER DATELINE. THIS IS _____.

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